

# The Flash

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# From The Big Fish

By Dave Pruett, K8CC k8cc@mediaone.net



Why do people belong to MRRC? The typical answer is that they like contesting, and want to associate with others who feel likewise. I think its fair to say that most members hope to get something out of belonging – an opportunity to learn from others of like interests, a chance to perhaps operate at a big station, or perhaps the enjoyment of the camaraderie between the membership.

In return, does a member have any responsibilities to the club to which they belong? A few members step up and hold office. Others contribute by taking on some of the myriad of tasks needed to keep the organization running. Most MRRC members can contribute towards the club in another way – by getting on and operating in ARRL and CQ contests that have club competitions, and submitting their scores for the club. Club competition results have a direct effect on the respect afforded that club, and have also been the basis for MRRC being invited to sponsor teams in the World Radiosport Team Championships (WRTCs).

Club competitions and submitting scores has been a sensitive topic over the years. MRRC's first run at a club competition in the 1971 Sweepstakes got us disqualified and caused many of the current club rules to be instituted. NCC's mandatory requirement to submit logs for club competitions is one of the points that prevented our merger this past summer. On the other hand MRRC has always taken the approach to encourage members to participate, but participation was an individual decision.

At the Findlay Hamfest MRRC meeting back in September, I proposed that the club make winning the Medium Club category

in the ARRL Sweepstakes Club Competition a goal for the fall contest season. There is historical precedent for this; MRRC has won this category twice before, and most years we generally wind up in the top ten. My personal feeling is that this is an under-achievement for a club such as ours. SS is a contest where, while it is difficult to compete individually on the national level, a W8 can make a lot of points. We should be competing for the win EVERY year.

In response to my proposal, at the Findlay meeting the club voted to make the SS Club Competition a priority for 2000. **Mike Tessmer, K9NW** has volunteered to lead the effort to organize the club and to maximize the club score. Mike (or a club officer) will be attempting to contact every member to ask them to contribute to the MRRC 2000 SS effort. Perhaps we should refer to this as S2K (i.e., SS 2000)?

Our goal going will be to win the medium category, which is limited to 50 entries. Keep in mind that each log is an entry – so one CW SS log and one SSB SS log from a particular station counts as two entries. On the other hand, three members at a multi-operator station on one mode only counts as one entry. If we exceed 50 entries, our score will go into the unlimited category. However, this is not a bad thing.

Historically, the medium category winner generates about five million points. Divide that between fifty entries and each must average 100K. This is not terribly difficult. There are now 80 sections - West Central Florida (WCF) being the new one – so 625 QSOs and a sweep is 100K. The key to winning the medium category, assuming you have near the maximum number of entries, is to maximize the number of points per entry. Mike's article elsewhere in this newsletter spells out a number of ideas in this regard.

At the same time, SS is not the only contest this fall – CQWW and the single band ARRL contests offer different challenges than SS. If these are your cup of tea rather than SS, so be it. MRRC will not compel its members to operate any given contest. Let's go out this fall and kick butt, whatever the contest may be. K8CC should be on for all but one or two – We'll see you on the air!

73, Dave/K8CC

# The Editor's KeyBoard

By Jeff Clarke, KU8E ku8e1@yahoo.com



In this issue of *The Flash*, I decided to expand my horizons a bit... You will notice we have some pictures this time around. Maybe one of these days I will get some real publishing software and get a real professional look.

The turnout in Findlay was great! Much of the talk revolved around ARRL Sweepstakes. The club has decided to make SS its project for this contest season. Mike Tessmer, K9NW, has come up with a plan on what we need to do to have a shot at the Medium Club category gavel. There has been lots of talk on the MRRC internet reflector about SS and who is going to do what category and so on. If you need a station to operate get on and let us know... I'm sure someone is willing to host a guest operator during one of the weekends of SS. See Mike's comments in this issue of the Flash. Also, congratulations are in order for Mike... in the CQWW CW results he won the world for SOLP (from TI) in the WORLD. Nice job Mike!

In Findlay, I also brought up the subject of starting to publish the Flash on the MRRC webpage. **K8CC** and some others have the Adobe Acrobat software that is need to do this. I propose that each member is given a choice of receiving a hardcopy of the Flash in the mail, like they do now, or if they do not need the hardcopy, we will no longer mail one to them. Please note that MRRC dues are not for a Flash subscription, they are to belong to the club, which includes many other benefits. If enough members opt to not receive the Flash, it could save us quite a bit in publishing cost, which run about \$80 or so per issue. That savings could be used to sponsor plaques for contests or whatever other activities we might choose to use those funds for. What do you think?

That's all I have on my mind this time around... . Hope to work everyone during the contest season. Also, look for your editor at PJ2T, during the CQWW CW DX contest. I will be M/S with W0CG and others... ..

73's Jeff KU8E

# **Score Rumors**

# **NA CW Sprint**

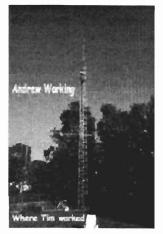
	QSO	Mults	Score	Team
K9NW	314	41	13502	SMC
K8MR	310	43	13330	MRRC
KW8N	307	43	13201	MRRC
KU8E	297	43	12771	MRRC
N8VW	295	43	12685	MRRC
K8JM	244	41	10004	MRRC
K9TM	225	40	9000	
K8CC	100	33	3300	

# **NA Phone Sprint**

	QSO	Mults	Score	Team
N8VW	321	52	16692	MRRC
KU8E	291	48	13968	MRRC
K8CC	250	50	12500	MRRC
ND8DX	258	47	12126	MRRC
K9NW	238	46	10948	SMC
N8EA	245	45	10935	MRRC
K8MR	208	46	9568	MRRC
N8KR	158	40	6320	MRRC

# **CA QSO Party**

	QSO	Mults	Score
W8MJ	959	58	133748
K8MR	404	58	57942
K9TM	373	58	49184
K9NW	145	42	16884
KU8E	150	47	16742



Here is a shot of the new **K9TM** antenna farm. Tim has a newly replaced Trylon T600-64 tower with a Force 12 MAG 520/240 (5el 20 /2 el 40) and a MAG 415/510 (4 el 15 / 5 el 10). His old Force 12 C3 is side mounted on the tower. Tim should pileup some big numbers for MRRC with this nice setup.

# MRRC Profiles WX3M

By Elmer Steingrass W8AV w8av@aol.com



Don Chisholm is one of MRRC's newer members that really isn't that new to the club. Don first joined *Mad River* in 1992 and was a member until about 1995 when a tour at college forced him to temporarily curtail his membership. He returned to active membership in the club in late 1998.

Don's ham radio career began approximately ten years ago. He and school chum, Greg Lotoczky, became interested in the hobby when they were both middle school students. Greg earned his Novice license and became KB8LTF, shortly before Don was licensed with his Novice call of KB8LVY in February, 1991. Don soon upgraded to Technician and changed his call to N8NSF. After an infectious bite from the contesting bug at Field Day, 1991, Don set a goal of obtaining his Extra Class license in time for 1991 CQWW CW Contest. He quickly progressed through the General and Advanced license classes and passed his Extra just in time to be QRV as N8NSF/AE, with an Argonaut 509, a set of homebrew paddles, and a G5RV in the November event. During a brief stay with an aunt in Delaware, Don applied for and received his current call WX3M in March of 1992. Some of you may also remember that Don briefly held the call WB8T for several months in 1999 before reapplying for WX3M.

Don does not list any one person in particular who provided assistance along the way after he was licensed. He does mention, however, that Mike , WS8D, and Paul, WY8W, inspired him to "listen" in DX pileups; Walt, WB8E, informed him that there is more to ham radio than contesting; and Bill, K8WI, reminds him that there is more to life than amateur radio. Don credits these people with helping him put the hobby in perspective.

When asked what hobbies Don has outside of amateur radio his response was, "There are hobbies other than ham radio??" (Maybe Karl, **ND8DX** can provide the best answer to that question!!!) He does mention some non-ham radio interests which include comic books, mountain biking, occasional fishing, camping, and canoeing.

WX3M lists former MRRC members John, WI8L and Steve, KV8O as contesting mentors who showed him the ropes at their modest, but effective stations. He claims not to have a favorite contest at the present time because as he says "I am an equally crummy op in all contests."

He does prefer W/VE contests over DX contests since he feels they are easier to operate and can be a lot of fun as a mobile station or from his "clandestine" home station.

Don recalls operating with K8WI in the 1993 SSB Sweepstakes. They attained a "clean sweep" from K8WI's city lot with a Ten Tec Corsair, a Cushcraft A4S, and a trap vertical and were very proud of this accomplishment. He has also operated DX contests as a single op from AA8U and as part of multi-op efforts from both AA8U and K8CC. Don also enjoys participating in Field Day although he admits that the contest is very frustrating. When not contesting, he enjoys some of the other aspects of ham radio such as SWLing, playing with the digital modes, casual mobile operating, HF WEFAX, and experimenting with mobile antennas. Don's station consists of an ICOM 765 and Kenwood TS-440/AT with a SO2R box. A W8GF (ex W8UCI) homebrew Class C amp that runs a pair of 813's also can be found in the WX3M hamshack. The WX3M antenna farm presently consist of a "clandestine" 80 meter dipole running from apartment building to a nearby tree, various Hamstick antennas, and a Hamstick rotatable dipole for 15, 20 and 40 meters mounted on the balcony of his apartment building. He also has a modest collection of keys, keyers, and SWL gear.

Don again credits **WI8L** and **K8VO** with introducing him to the *Mad River Radio Club*. He would like to see the club continue to encourage members with smaller stations to get on the air and turn in scores for the club in the various contests. He applauds the club sponsorship of the **MQP** and **OQP** and the recent increase in club meetings that are now being held at homes of various members. Don is music teacher for Grades K-5 in the Lake Orion Community Schools and resides in Auburn Hills, Michigan.



WX3M operating AA8U/m during the 2000 MQP.

# MRRC - 2000 ARRL SS Goals

## by Mike Tessmer, K9NW

At the Findlay meeting, participation in ARRL Sweepstakes was discussed. With the CW contest less than a month away, it's time to start formulating some strategy. The goal: Win the Medium Club category It's not enough to just say "get on for a while in SS and be sure to put MRRC on your summary." We need numbers to shoot for. Why the ambitious and rather hardcore goal of winning? Because SS is one contest where a club in the 8th call area has a very realistic chance of winning!

So what are the numbers to shoot for? How about 6,000,000 points? If that doesn't win it, it should at least be close! We can't control what other Medium Class clubs do, but we can control what we do. How do we get 6M points?

800 QSOs \* 2 points = 1600 QSO points /1600 \* 77

Sections = 123,000 points / 123,000 \* 48 Entries =

### 5,913,600 Points

800 QSOs either mode is not beyond the realm of possibility for probably 95% of MRRC stations and operators. 77 sections is an assumption that sometimes one may not get them all. 48 entries allow for a couple extra entries. Certainly, some stations will make more than 800 QSOs which will close the gap.

There are a few things that will have to be addressed. It's not in the best interest of the club to limit entries so it's entirely possible that just by encouraging activity, we could get bumped into Unlimited (50 entries is the Medium Class limit.) Thus, some sort of coordination is in order. For the record, I subscribe to the "if it happens, it happens" point of view. Some members don't like SS. That's fine. Perhaps they might open up their stations to some others that don't have a place to operate. Some members don't like one mode or another. That's fine. Perhaps they might open up their stations to some others that prefer the "off" mode. Just something to think about.

For one reason or another, not everyone will make 800 QSOs. Keep in mind that there will be a certain percentage of members that will be gunning all weekend. They will "make up the difference" so to speak. ALL entries are welcome! It may be more beneficial if a few "limited participation" efforts were to combine to form one multi-op. Everyone gets their time in the chair yet ,they can tend to other activities that may take them out of the shack. Consider three 300 QSO/60 mult efforts vs one 900 QSO/80 mult effort--108K vs 144K. Plus, you get the added bonus of the camaraderie in a multi.

Of course, there is absolutely NO attempt implied here to dictate activity. Think about goal you would like to

shoot for. Make it realistic, yet challenging. Set mediocre goals and you'll get mediocre results. Set challenging goals and you never know what might happen! Remember, while the big, full effort scores certainly contribute, it's ENTRIES that win the club competition!! I will volunteer to act as SS coordinator.

73, Mike K9NW

Contest Calendar	<b>Oct/Nov 2000</b>
October 14-15	PA QSO Party
October 22-23	Illinois QSO Party
October 21	Asia/Pacific Sprint CW
October 28-29	CQWW DX SSB
November 4-5	ARRL CW Sweepstakes
November 18-19	ARRL SSB Sweepstakes
November 25-26	CQWW DX CW

# Treasurer Report by Buck Switzer, N8CQA

Guys - Sorry I didn't get this to Jeff on time for the last newsletter.

Balance 08	/17/00	\$410.25	
Deposits		\$384.00	
Sub-Total		\$794.25	
Expenses		\$0.00	
Balance	08/31/00	\$794.25	
Deposits	9/1 – 9/30	\$78.00	
Checks	9/1 - 9/30	\$90.27	
Balance	9/30/2000	\$931.98	
OQP Plaqu MQP Plaqu		\$490.00	
MRRC Fun		\$441.98	

# **SWEEPSTAKES TOP TEN SCORES FOR MICHIGAN THROUGH 1999**

	CAN Suidie Oberaror - High Lower	шеше	OWE	
94	WA8ZDT	195000 1300		75
96	K8CC	188916	1211	78
93	WA8ZDT	182704	1202	76
91	K8CC	182490	1185	77
93	K8CC	181336	1193	76
90	K8CC	171300	1142	75
83	WA8YVR	159100	1075	74
88	K8CC	156436	1057	74
78	K8LX	153150	1021 75	75
83	83 K8CC	152144 1028 74	1028	74

	CW Single Operator - Low Power	or - Low I	ower	
97	97 W8MJ	159738 1011 79	1011	_T
99	UM8W	154440	990	78
98	LW8M	151838	961	79
96	AA8AV	148824	954	78
94	AA8AV	142604	926	77
97	WA8RRR	139620	895	78
74	W8CQN	137492	929	74
91	KW8G	134288	872	77
92	AA8AV	133912	881	76
92	92 KW8G	132440	860 77	_1

E				ľ	or only operator	1000
ω	1011	9	98	W8RU		9500
0	990	78	99	W8RU		9150
ω	961	79	97	W8RU		8816
#2	954	78	97	K8XXX	(K8AQM)	7956
#3	926	77	94	K8AQM		7740
0	895	78	96	WB8RUQ		7118
iO.	929	74	99	K8DD		6344
w	872	77	86	K8DD		6304
O	881	76	95	WB8RUQ		6164
10	860 77	77	97	97 K8DD		6019

or ongo operator and	401 - WIN	ı			
8RU	95004	609	78		6
/8RU	91504	602	76		9
18RU	88160	580	76		9
(K8AQM)	79560	510	78		9
(8AQM	77400	516	75		9
1B8RUQ	71188	481	74		ω
(8DD	63448	412	77		9
(8DD	63042	399	79		9
/B8RUQ	61640	460	67		9
(8DD	60198	381 79	79	_	9

CW Single Operator - GRP	TOT - CIK	ľ		
8RU	95004	609	78	97
8RU	91504	602	76	96
8RU	88160	580	76	 95
8XXX (K8AQM)	79560	510	78	99
8AQM	77400	516	75	94
B8RUQ	71188	481	74	87
8DD	63448	412	77	92
8DD	63042	399	79	96
B8RUQ	61640	460	67	95
8DD	60198	381	79	97

on Single Operator - Give	ator - GIVI	l				
J	95004	609	78		7	97 K8L
J	91504	602	76		96	WA8
J	88160	580	76		95	AA81
(K8AQM)	79560	510	78		99	K8C0
M	77400	516	75		94	AA81
ΩQ	71188	481	74		87	К8АС
	63448	412	77	_	92	K8L>
	63042	399	79		96	К8Л
ΩQ	61640	460	67		95	K8JN
	60198	381 79	79	_	97	97 K8JN

	SSB Single Operator - QRP	perator - QR	ס	
93	WB8G	100408	652	77
99	K8LJQ	40584	267	76
89	KB8DLH	43216	296	73
95	W8ERN	32850	219	75
98	K8LJQ	29680	212	70
89	YWV8W	28676	216	67
91	KODD	27950	215	65
92	N8CQA	26980	190	71
97	K8LJQ	23010	177	9
95	K8LJO	21760	170 64	64

96 KG8CW

93 K8MJZ 96 NU8Z 95 AA8U 98 K8CC

Multi Operator

95 KG8EF

96 AA8U

94 AA8U

93 AA8U

236852 1538 77

83 WD8MGQ

SWEE

92 K8MJZ 91 K8MJZ 94 K8CC (WD8IJP)

249942 1623 77

94 AA8AV

92 AA8AV 96 M8MJ FW8M 86 97 W8MJ

186494 1211 77

186032 1208 77

93 AA8AV 7 W8W 66

154924 1006 77

154364 1043 74

90 N8CXX

95 K8CC (WD8IJP)

94 WA8ZDT

93. K8CC (WD8IJP)

294294 1911 77

95 AA8AV

SSB Single Operator - Low Power

202082 1279 79

206052 1338 77

SSB Single Operator - High Power

96 K8CC (K9TM)

954 79	150732	97 K8JM	97
998 76	151696	К8ЈМ	95
995	155220	К8ЈМ	96
1023	157542	K8LX	92
1098	162504	K8AQM	87
1071	164934	AA8U	94
1042	164636	K8CC	99
1117	172018	AA8U	95
1154	180024	WA8ZDT	96
125	197974 1253 79	97 K8LX	97
	CW Multi Operator	0	

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95	K8AZ	(K8NZ)	193732 1258		77	9
93	KW8N	(WD8IXE)	180424	1187	76	9
92	KW8N	(WD8IXE)	180334	1171	77	9
92	WR3G		179256	1164	77	9
93	KQ8M		178752	1176	76	9
91	WR3G		173866	1129	77	9
91	KW8N	(WD8IXE)	172172	1118	77	9
90	KW8N	(WD8IXE)	169800	1132	75	9
95	W8FN		168872 1111 76	1111	76	9
94	94 W8FN		165600 1104 75	1104	75	9

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77	963 77	148302	95 NATEC	95
78	954	148824	KU8E	97
76	982	149264	K8BL	93
77	973	149842	K8CX	94
77	979	150766	K8BL	94
77	999	153846	K8CX	92
77	1002	154308	K8BL	95
78	1008	157248	К9ТМ	98
79	1030	162740	K9TM	99
79	1030	162740 1030	K8BL	97
	ower	CW Single Operator - Low Power	CW S	

99 92 97

90 94

91 NG8D

95 WD8LLD 84 WB8JBM 81 WB8JBM

74 WB8JBM

147022 1007 73

147224 148918

			10000		
	CW Single Operator - QRP	ator - QR	7		
	K8MF0	100168	659	76	
_	WA8RJF	84300	562	75	
٠.	WA8RJF	83232	578	72	
	WA8RJF	82950	553	75	
-	WA8RJF	79952	526	76	
•	N8BC (K8BL)	76284	489	78	
	WA8RJF	75460	539	70	
_	K8BL	75000	500	75	
٠.	WA8RJF	72750	485	75	
~	WA8RJF	70832	466 76	76	

82 WB8JBM

154322 1057 73

154944 1076 72

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99 KU8E 99 W8AV 83 МВ8ЈВМ

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97 W8JJ 87 K8CC

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205050 1367 75

204150 1361 75

87 N8CXX

	SSB Single Operator - QRP	erator - QR	0			
93	WA8RJF	64824	438	74	95	KV
92	W8ILC	64064	416	77	96	
92	WA8RJF	61500	410	75	94	
86	WA8RJF	53246	337	79	92	
90	AA4YZ	50850	339	75	91	
99	WA8RJF	50560	320	79	95	WI
89	NQ8Y	47850	319	75	98	
94	WA8RJF	46368	322	72	89	KW
97	97 WA8RJF	44640	310	72	8 5	WE
c c	99 WARRON	43200	300 72	72	94 WE	

99 ND8DX

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89 K8BL

92 K8BL

99 W8DD

93 K8BL

154616 1004 77

152154

963 79

96 K8JZ 99 KU8E 94 N8JEC

95 K8BL

94 N6WLX/8

130720

860 76

142142

223860 1435 78

81 K8ND (WB8MZZ)

217412 1469 74

96 K8MZ

95 NZ80

92 NZ80

99 K8DX

91 K8AZ 93 KW8N 97 K8DX

(K8NZ) (NZ4K) SSB Single Operator - High Power

SSB Single Operator - Low Power

184228 1166 79

189266 1229

298778 1891 79

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SSB Multi Operator	
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	77

	SSB Multi Operator	Jperator		
95	KW8N	332640 2160		77
96	KW8N	325728	2088	78
94	KW8N	316008	2052	77
92	KW8N	304766	1979	77
91	KW8N	294140	1910	77
95	WD9INF	288750	1875	77
86	KW8N	287718	1821	79
89	KW8N	260106	1689	77
85	WB8JBM	255744	1728 74	74
9 4	94 WD9INF	248864 1616 77	1616	77